CLAIMS

1   **1.**   A data management system, comprising:

2   a first communication terminal including:

3   a first content data storage which stores a first content

4   data; and

5   a first related data storage which stores a first related

6   data corresponding to the first content data; and

7   a second communication terminal including:

8   a second content data storage which stores a second

9   content data; and

10   a second related data storage which stores the first

11   related data received from the first communication terminal

12   through a network and a second related data corresponding to

13   the second content data.

1   **2.**   The data management system according to claim **1,**

2   further comprising:

3   the first communication terminal updates the first

4   related data based upon receiving a related data from the other

5   communication terminal;

6   the first communication terminal sends the updated first

7   related data to the second communication terminal as an upper

8   level   communication   terminal   connected   to   the   first

9   communication terminal; and

10   the second communication terminal updates the second

11   related data stored in the second related data storage based

12   upon   the   updated   first   related   data   from   the   first

13   communication terminal, whereby

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14   the other related data stored in the other communication

15   terminal is stored in the first communication terminal, as well

16   as in the second communication terminal.

1   **3.**   The data management system according to claim **1**,

2   wherein:

3   the first communication terminal includes a plurality

4   of communication terminals connected in parallel to the second

5   communication terminal through the network.

1   **4.**   The data management system according to claim **1**,

2   wherein:

3   the first communication terminal includes a plurality

4   of communication terminals connected in series to the second

5   communication terminal through the network.

1   **5.**   The data management system according to claim **1**,

2   wherein:

3   a   communication   between   the   first   communication

4   terminal and the second communication terminal is performed

5   by wireless connections.

1   **6.** The data management system according to claim **1**,

2   wherein:

3   a   communication   between   the   first   communication

4   terminal and the second communication terminal is performed

5   by wired connections.

1   **7.**   A data management system, comprising:

2   a group of a plurality of communication terminals
3   connected with each other; and

4   a browsing communication terminal to be connected to
5   one communication terminal of the group, wherein:

6   the browsing communication terminal is connected to an
7   uppermost level communication terminal of the group through
8   the one communication terminal and a communication terminal
9   between the one communication terminal and the uppermost level
10   communication terminal;

11   the browsing communication terminal retrieves a related
12   data corresponding to a desired content data from the related
13   data stored in the uppermost communication terminal to identify
14   a communication terminal of the group which stores the desired
15   content data; and

16   the browsing communication terminal communicates with
17   the identified communication terminal to receive the desired
18   content data, and then plays back the desired content data.

1   **8.**   A communication terminal, comprising:
2   a content data storage to store a first content data;
3   and

4   a related data storage to receive and store a first
5   related data corresponding to a first content data and a second
6   related data corresponding to a second content data stored in
7   another communication terminal through a network.

1   **9.**   The communication terminal according to claim **8,**
2   wherein:
3   each of the content data storage and the related data

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4 storage are stored in a hard disc memory, from and to which

5 the content data and the related data are read and written.

1   **10**.   The communication terminal according to claim **8,**

2 wherein:

3   each of the content data storage and the related data

4 storage are stored in a semiconductor memory from and to which

5 the content data and the related data are read and written.

1   **11**.   A communication terminal, comprising:

2   a content data storage to store content data; and

3   a related data storage to store the related data

4 corresponding to the content data;

5   a communication section to send and receive the related

6 data with other communication terminals;

7   a control section to control the communication section

8 wherein:

9   the control section, when the other communication

10 terminal is connected to the communication terminal, updates

11 the related data stored in the related data storage, and

12 transmits the updated related data to an upper level

13 communication terminal by controlling the communication

14 section.

1   **12**.   The communication terminal as defined in claim **11**

2 , wherein:

3   the control section includes a dependence information

4 memory section to store information whether or not the another

5 communication terminal is connected to the communication

6 terminal.

1   **13.**   A communication terminal, comprising:

2   a related data storage to store related data

3 corresponding to a content data;

4   an input section to input retrieval information of the

5 desired content data for browsing;

6   a related data retrieval section to retrieve the related

7 data stored in the related data storage based on the retrieval

8 information; and

9   a browsing section to browse the content data

10 corresponding to related data retrieved by the related data

11 retrieval section.

1   **14.**   A communication terminal, comprising:

2   a related data storage to store related data

3 corresponding to a content data;

4   an input section to input retrieval information of the

5 desired content data for browsing;

6   a related data retrieval section to retrieve the related

7 data stored in the related data storage based on the retrieval

8 information;

9   a browsing section to browse the content data

10 corresponding to related data retrieved by the related data

11 retrieval section;

12   a communication section to receive the content data and

13 the related data through a network; and

14   a control section to control the communication of the

15 content data based on the retrieved related data.

1   **15**.   The communication terminal according to claim **13**,

2   wherein:

3   the browsing section connects by peer-to-peer to a

4   communication terminal to store the content data through the

5   network.

1   **16**.   A data management method, comprising the steps of:

2   storing a first related data corresponding to a first

3   content data; and

4   storing a second related data corresponding to a second

5   content data stored in another communication terminal.

1   **17**.   A data management method, comprising the steps of:

2   connecting a first communication terminal to a second

3   communication terminal as an upper level communication

4   terminal;

5   when a new content data is inputted to the first

6   communication terminal, storing the new content data in a

7   content data storage of the first communication terminal and

8   storing a related data corresponding to the stored content

9   data;

10   updating an existing first related data of the related

11   data storage based upon the stored related data;

12   transmitting the first related data to the second

13   communication terminal from the first communication terminal

14   based upon a communication approval from the second

15   communication terminal;

16   storing the first related data transmitted from the first

17 communication terminal in the related data storage of the

18 second communication terminal; and

19   updating an existing related data of the related data

20 storage in the second communication terminal based upon storage

21 of the first related data transmitted.

1   **18.**   A data management method, according to claim **17,**

2 comprising the further step of:

3   providing a other communication terminal to be connected

4 to the first communication terminal, wherein:

5   the first communication terminal updates the first

6 related data based upon receiving a other related data from

7 the other communication terminal;

8   the first communication terminal sends the updated first

9 related data to the second communication terminal as an upper

10 level communication terminal connected to the first

11 communication terminal; and

12   the second communication terminal updates the second

13 related data stored in the second related data storage based

14 upon the updated first related data from the first

15 communication terminal, whereby

16   the other related data stored in the other communication

17 terminal is stored in the first communication terminal, as well

18 as in the second communication terminal.

1   **19.**   A data management method, comprising the steps of:

2   storing a metadata received through a network;

3   inputting retrieval information on a desired content

4 data for browsing;

5   retrieving the stored metadata based on the retrieval

6 information; and

7   browsing the content data corresponding to the stored

8 metadata retrieved at the retrieval step through the network.

1   **20.**   The data management method according to claim **19,**

2 wherein:

3   the browsing step includes a connection step of

4 connecting by peer-to-peer to a communication terminal to store

5 the content data through the network.